

REMARKS

The Application includes claims 1-43 and 58-70. Claims 7, 9-10, 20 and 65 are withdrawn. Claim 31-33 are marked as withdrawn, but applicant contends they should be considered as being generic and reinstated.

In the office action, the Examiner requested election between two species and three pairs of subspecies.

Applicants select species II, claims 34-36, directed to flaring on a side of a stent. Applicants respectfully traverse, however, that claims 31-33 are directed only towards a species that has flaring at the end of a stent. Rather, none of claims 31-33 requires such a limitation. For example, Fig. 9F (species II) schematically shows claim 31 (wherein said flaring is symmetric). Similarly, in side flaring it can be the case that claim 32 is met (said flaring has an axis that is at an angle to an axis of said stent); See Fig. 9F. Similarly, in side flaring it can be the case that claim 33 is met (said flaring comprises a coupling between different extensions such that a flaring angle at one side of the flare compensate for a flare angle at another side of the flare). However, a new claim 65 is added (and withdrawn) which does appear to meet species I.

Within species II, applicants choose subspecies A-1 (claims 2-6), subspecies B-1 (claim 8) and subspecies C-2 (claim 21). Applicants traverse in part, however, as the subspecies of B-1 and B-2 are not mutually exclusive. Rather, a portion of the implant may include multiple types of hinges, as shown, for example, in Figs. 10D (and its description, where the direction of the holes may set the bending direction) and page 4, lines 16-29 which described the option of combining slot types. It is also noted that claims 9 and 10 also describe different hinge bending directions (in plane and perpendicular).

Claims 1, 11-19, 22-30 and 37-43 are generic. New claims 58, 60-61 and 63-64 are added herewith and are believed to be generic.

New claims 59, 62 and 66-70 are believed to belong to species II.

New claim 65 is believed to belong to species I.

An action on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:

- Petition for Extension (Two Months)
- Additional Claims Transmittal Fee